

Protocol for Preparing Field Collected Egg Masses

- **MATERIALS:**
5% bleach solution, cotton balls, data sheets, leaves in ziplock baggies, brown paper towels cut into quarters, filter paper 7.5cm diameter, Tupperware containers, tape, sharpie felt tip, pencil, hand lens, flash light.
- **METHOD:**
Make up the 5% bleach solution. Using the graduated cylinder fill up to 5mL with bleach. Fill up to 100mL with water from the filtered tap.

Check the data on each baggie from the field corresponds to that on the data sheet. Check that date, time, site, county, time spent searching and number of leaves are all present.

Do one site at a time.

If a leaf has multiple egg masses on it, it must be cut up. Each leaf section should have only one egg mass on it.

Check each egg mass, if the egg mass is old discard and delete the necessary data on the data sheet. One can tell an old egg mass by brown discoloration and dryness. If you are unsure ask for assistance.

Dip all the leaves in the 5 % bleach solution. Using a cotton ball wetted with bleach solution wipe both sides of the leaf. Remove all of the dirt.

Starting with the first Density collected egg mass (D1-10) back light it with a flashlight. Count the number of eggs in each egg mass and record the number of eggs on the data sheet.

If there are exit holes from wasps that emerged in the field make a note of the number in the comments section. Also a note should be made of any eggs that have been predated or dessicated.

Put the egg mass in a petri dish that has been lined with a wetted paper towel and a piece of filter paper. Label the petri dish with a

sharpie. Leaf code and site must be visible on the top of the petri dish.

Put all of the leaves from one site (Density and Parasitism rate collected) into a Tupperware container. Label the site and date on the lid of the container on a piece of tape.

*After the leaves from each site have been monitored for 2 weeks they need to be thrown away. Discard of leaves and paper towels in the green waste bin, and the filter paper in the recycling bin.